

## Items of Interest.

—The anthracite coal companies of New York announce an advance of twenty-five cents a ton on coals.

—The membership of the Independent Order of Good Templars has reached eight hundred thousand.

—The foundation work for the new Rhode Island capitol will begin at Providence at once. The contract for building was let for \$1,576,000.

—The expenses of maintaining the Spanish Army averages \$100,000,000 per year, while the amount paid for educational purposes is but \$1,500,000.

—The New York *Tribune* says: "The liquor traffic is to-day the heaviest clog upon the progress and the deepest disgrace of the nineteenth century."

—The President of the United States, at Gray Gables, Mass., on Wednesday, September 18, touched a button that set the machinery of the Cotton States International exhibition in motion.

—All intoxicating drinks are poisonous. The lighter beers and the finest fermented wines are as truly, though not as strongly, intoxicating as are the coarsest and cheapest spiritous drinks.—*Dr. Norman Kerr.*

MORE than one hundred acres of land adjoining the Chautauqua grounds in New York, have been purchased by a brewery firm, which will defile its atmosphere of Christian culture with the fumes of breweries.—*Ex.*

—By way of Halifax and Quebec opens one of our "unguarded gates" into the United States. A great many Russian immigrants who are very undesirable are said to be entering in great numbers by this round-about route.

—Joseph Cook in writing up the subject, "Rum-sellers as Robbers and Rulers," said recently in the *Advance*: "It has been proven that although we receive one hundred million dollars a year from the liquor traffic, nevertheless fifteen dollars a head is added to our burdens and one dollar and sixty cents received. So that the loss to the nation is fifteen or twenty times the income."

A TRIUMPH in surgery is recorded in the case of Miss Mary Collis, of Newark, N. J. Two years ago this young woman was completely scalped by a winding machine in a factory in Kearny. She was taken to St. Barnabas' Hospital, where Dr. Mercer undertook to furnish her with a new scalp and head of hair. After laboring patiently for two years he has succeeded. It is said to be the greatest case of successful skin grafting on record.—*Ex.*

## LITERARY NOTES.

The current number of THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES contains a second article by Professor Dr. W. M. Ramsay of Aberdeen, Scotland, on the Book of Acts in the Light of recent Discovery. Peculiarly interesting is an article on the "Personal Recollections of General Gordon," commonly known as "Chinese Gordon," to appear shortly in THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES. The author is the Hon. Selah Merrill, D. D., LL. D., of world-wide reputation for his explorations in the East during his two official terms as United States Consul at Jerusalem.

A remarkable educational movement in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will be described by Rev. Dr. John Balcom Shaw in THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES. Dr. Shaw says that there is nothing just like it in any other city in the world, certainly nothing of the kind that approaches it in proportion and worth.

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THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE for October, with a rich store of contents is at hand. "Unsuspected Faith," by Chas. Moinet, D. D., is inspiring. The sermon by Rev. C. Silvester Horne upon "Christianity and Culture," is excellent. The Rev. Mark Guy Pearse continues his superior articles entitled, "In the Banqueting house." The present discourse is named "A Parable of Love." The able and instructive articles by Rev. John Edwards are also continued on "Methods of Illustration." We find as usual the "Homiletics" full and of exceedingly choice variety. "Choosing Church Officers," by Rev. Wm. Wainshaw is valuable. "Imaginary Difficulties" is suggestive. Other timely and helpful thoughts, upon "Peter and the Risen Lord;" "The Day of Pentecost;" "The Gospel in Isaiah;" "The Saviour's Parting Words;" "The Message to Peter" &c., furnishes a repository of great value. This magazine is a sterling one and grows constantly in popular favor. *Fifteen cents per copy; \$1.50 per year. Wilbur B. Ketcham, Publisher, 2 Cooper Union New York.*

QUICK TRUTHS IN QUAIN TEXTS, is a volume of sermons by R. S. MacArthur. The author needs no introduction, as his ability as a preacher is well known. The sermons in this volume were first preached in the Calvary Baptist church, New York, on consecutive summer Sunday evenings, and afterwards in Music Hall, Boston. Following are the contents of the book:

1. The Powerless Gates.
2. The Consecrated Hand.

3. The Brave Three Hundred.
4. The Endangered Inheritance.
5. The Ennobled Ox-Goad.
6. The Mutilated Message.
7. The Poisoned Pottage.
8. The Bed and its Covering.
9. The Swimming Iron.
10. The Fleeing Shadows.
11. The Crude Cake.
12. The Costly Journey.
13. The Northern Iron and Steel.
14. The Christly Marks.
15. The Learned Tongue.
16. The Hurrying Angel.
17. The Wooden or Iron Yokes.
18. The Cowards in Battle.
19. The Single Hearted Soldier.
20. Divine Heartburn.

The book is neatly bound and is an excellent volume, not only for the ministry but for the laity also. We can heartily recommend these sermons, as good, Gospel sermons.

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## THE FIRESIDE A SEMINARY.

Did it ever occur to you that your family fireside is a seminary of learning? It is nothing else: a seminary of infinite importance. It may not be within the reach of every parent to give his children the advantages of the college, yet every child is a graduate of the heart. For so woven in with the woof of childhood is the education the fireside bestows, it gives color and form to the whole texture of life. The learning of the college may fade from recollection; its classic lore lie forgotten in the hall of memory; but the simple lessons of home enameled upon the heart of childhood defy the lapse of years, while they outlive the more mature but less vivid ones of after days.

It is no uncommon thing to see a man in the imbecility of age, holding fresh in his recollection the events of his childhood. All the wide space between that and the present hour is a forgotten waste; but the impressions of his childhood were so deep they have become lasting. At your seminary of learning—the family fireside—are you making your instructors' task an easy one? The instructors God has provided for each one of us—the parents who themselves have received instruction to bring up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord?

CHRISTIAN faith is a grand cathedral with dimly pictured windows. Standing without, you see no glory, nor can possibly imagine any; standing within, every ray of light reveals a harmony of unspeakable splendors.—*Hawthorne.*